



**Cultural Affairs Commission
Meeting**

December 8, 2015

**Cultural Affairs Arts Center
(SPACE)**

6:00 P.M.

Minutes

Present: Alexis Alexander, Lisa Clark, Larry Dane-Kellogg, Linda J. Evans, Raymond Gaddy, Rebecca Gaston-Dawson, Alix Laincy, Megan Manly, Joyce Piersanti, Mary Raines, Tanet Taharka, Rene Teran, Lisa White, Esther Buchsbaum, Brea Cali, Antwan Lang, Courtnay Papy


Eileen Baker, Director
Legina Jackson, Administrative Assistant
Rebecca Brown, Contract Coordinator

Absent: Jamie Andersen, Darren Bagley-Heath, Kim Manigault, Martha Massey, Sherah Rosen, Willia Johnson

I. Minutes Approval

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Raymond Gaddy, Chair. Motion to accept the minutes of July 14, 2015 was made and seconded. Motion carried.

II. Announcements



Commission Chair Gaddy announced that there are newly appointed Commissioners that will begin their term on January 1, 2016. He asked that they introduce themselves. Impending Commissioners' Buchsbaum, Cali, Lang, and Papy gave brief introductions.

III. Assigned Agency Program Evaluation Report

- a. #People –
- b. Demographics of audience –
- c. Logistics of technical, marketing –
- d. Quality of event, levels of engagement, educational benefits –

TELFAIR MUSEUM OF ART

January 1 – December 31

Access to Art

EVALUATORS: Darren Bagley-Heath, Lisa Clark, Larry Dane-Kellogg, Joyce Piersanti, Tanet Taharka

Commissioner Laincy attended the Monet and American Impressionism Lecture. He commented that he learned some things and it was very nice and interesting.

Commissioner Dane-Kellogg attended the Monet and American Impressionism Lecture. He noted that the event was very well attended.

Commissioner Taharka attended the 4th Grade Tour for Juliette Low Elementary School. She noted that the students were taken to the Jepson Center. Commissioner Taharka said she was under the impression the tour would take place at the school instead of it being a field trip off site. Commission Chair Gaddy suggested Cultural Affairs' Staff provide specific locations for the school tours so the Commissioners are able to attend.

SAVANNAH PHILHARMONIC

January 1 – December 31

EVALUATORS: Lisa Clark, Linda J. Evans, Raymond Gaddy, Kim Manigault, Rene Teran

Commissioner Evans attended A Classical Halloween event. She mentioned that there was an open rehearsal two days before the event.



WEST BROAD STREET YMCA

January 15 – December 31

EVALUATORS: Linda J. Evans, Dr. Rebecca Gaston-Dawson, Joyce Piersanti, Mary Raines, Tanet Taharka

Commissioner Evans attended the Art-Full Apprentice Program. Commissioner Evans noted that over the last few months there has been only one person enrolled in this particular program.

Commissioner Raines added that she had a similar experience with regard to low student attendance when she attended the Art-Full Apprentice Program.

Commissioner Gaston-Dawson attended the Neighborhood K-8 Dramatic Reading event on December 4. She said only one student was present. While there, she said she watched several other activities taking place simultaneously. Commissioner Gaston-Dawson commented that when she attends the events at the West Broad Street YMCA, it is usually a lot of fun and she enjoys herself.

Commissioner Taharka attended the November 9 and 23 Arts for Adults events. She stated that the instructor was not present, which resulted in cancellation of the class. She added that students were not present either. Commissioner Taharka said the staff directed her to an Art-Full Apprentice program that was being held at the same time that the Arts for Adults class should have been held. She noted that there were two students present in the class. She noticed that the students were working on a number of different projects with the instructor.

Commission Chair Gaddy encouraged the Commission to attend events at the West Broad Street YMCA more regularly to keep track of programming.

DEEP CENTER, INC.

January 26 – December 19

Young Author Project


EVALUATORS: Jamie Andersen, Lisa Clark, Sherah Rosen, Rene Teran

No one present attended.

LIVE OAK PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Savannah Children's Book Festival

EVALUATORS: Jamie Andersen, Kim Manigault, Megan Manly, Lisa White



Commissioner Manly attended the Savannah Children's Book Festival. She felt that the quality of the festival and activities were good and relevant. Commissioner Manly's only concern was the congestion in Forsyth Park and on the sidewalk areas. She said Forsyth Park is a logical place to have the festival, but it may be better to have the festival held in front of the bandshell area to eliminate the congestion.

Commission Chair Gaddy explained the reason for the festival being held in the area that it is held, stating that there are only electrical outlets along the center aisle which is needed to support the equipment. He commented how the bookstore area was much more organized this year.

Commissioner White attended the Savannah Children's Book Festival. She said there were a lot of children present and it was a great turnout with a diverse crowd ethnically and with regard to age. She noted that the City's support was acknowledged.

ART RISE SAVANNAH

February 6 – December 4

First Friday Art March

EVALUATORS: **Dr. Rebecca Gaston-Dawson, Raymond Gaddy, Sherah Rosen**

Commission Chair Gaddy attended the November 6 event. He said he was impressed with the event. Commission Chair Gaddy noted that there were a lot of families and children present. He also noted that it was very active near the Starland District and the event was filled with many activities.

Commissioner Teran added that the organization has made adjustments based off of the critiques and comments they have received.

SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN


October 24 – 31

Savannah Film Festival

EVALUATORS: **Darren Bagley-Heath, Megan Manly, Lisa White**

Commissioner White attended several evening films. She commented that every night they opened with acknowledgments to the City.

Commission Chair Gaddy attended several daytime films. He noted that the City's support was acknowledged in print and visually. Commission Chair Gaddy said the Savannah Film Festival put on a very good show. He mentioned that



there was one negative experience which involved a malfunction with the projector. While trying to repair the projector, the Film Festival Staff would not let the patrons inside. This resulted in a lot of patrons, especially older persons, being very uncomfortable due to the hot temperature outdoors.

Commissioner Piersanti attended several films. She said the Film Festival Staff was very accommodating and she had a wonderful experience.

Commissioner Manly attended several film screenings at the SCAD Museum of Art. She commented that the venue is nice and convenient, with a parking garage across the street. Commissioner Manly added that there was a wide variety of people in attendance, not just students. She stated that this is good exposure for the museum.

WEAVE-A-DREAM

December 4

Savannah Ballet Theater

EVALUATORS: **Jamie Andersen, Darren Bagley-Heath, Linda J. Evans, Raymond Gaddy, Alix Laincy, Mary Raines, Rene Teran**

Commissioner Laincy attended the event. He said he was impressed with the performance and everything was perfect. Commissioner Laincy recommended continued funding for this program.

Commissioner Taharka attended the event. She noted that the venue was beautiful. Commissioner Taharka noticed that the students were very engaged with their performances. She stated that the shows were very orderly.

IV. Weave-A-Dream Committee Report – Darren Bagley-Heath

Ms. Brown reported in Vice Chair Bagley-Heath's absence. Mountainfilm on Tour Savannah's Movies That Matter series was awarded \$2,000. The carryover amount for next year is \$4,900.

V. Chairperson's Report – Raymond Gaddy

Commission Chair Gaddy thanked the Commission for their work and dedication. He announced that the Vice Chair position needed to be voted on for next year and he discussed the expectations for the position. He explained that he would be returning next year as a non-voting member, and he emphasized the importance of the Commissioners' participation.



Commissioners' Evans, Taharka, and Teran were nominated for the Vice Chair elect position. After tallying the votes, Commission Chair Gaddy announced Commissioner Linda J. Evans was voted as Vice Chair.

VI. Director's Report – Eileen Baker

Ms. Baker thanked the Commission for their work with the arts. She informed the Commission of ceramic mugs made for them by Clair Buckner, Cultural Affairs Visual Arts Specialist, and expressed her appreciation for Ms. Buckner's work on the mugs.

VII. Contract Coordinator's Report – Rebecca Brown

Ms. Brown informed the Commission of upcoming contract meetings and gave a brief description of what would be expected from the meetings. She also informed the Commission of the economic study through Americans for the Arts and summarized the overview of the study and its impact on the arts.

VIII. Upcoming Cultural Events

- ◆ Savannah Philharmonic – January 1 – December 31
- ◆ Telfair Museum of Art – Access to Art – January 1 – December 31
- ◆ West Broad Street YMCA – January 15 – December 31
- ◆ DEEP Center, Inc. – Young Author Project – January 26 – December 19
- ◆ Weave-A-Dream – Mountainfilm on Tour Savannah – Movies That Matter – January 26, 2016
- ◆ Next Commission Meeting – February 9, 2016 at 6 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned
6:55 p.m.